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Urban District of Lakes

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer

of Health

For the Year 1938.

MIN. OF HEALTH
12 JUL 1939
11

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To the Chairman and Members
of the Urban District Council of Lakes.

Sir and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the Health of the Urban District for the year 1938.

The arrangement of the same is similar to that of the previous year and is compiled in accordance with the Ministry of Health's communication of October 25, 1938.

Except where any changes have occurred in the matter of Nursing in the Home, Hospital accommodation, Ambulance facilities and the establishment of new Clinics and Treatment Centres the general details have been omitted.

The proper provision of accommodation for the isolation and nursing of infectious diseases on modern lines is still in abeyance.

The following important legislation has come into force during the year, notably the Factory Act and the Hydrogen Cyanide (Fumigation) Act, both of which received the Royal Assent in the previous year.

A new Food and Drugs Act and a Young Persons (Employment) Act have received Parliamentary sanction but do not come into force until the following year.

The organisation of the Casualty Services (First Aid Posts, Points and Parties) in connection with the A.R.P. scheme has thrown a considerable amount of extra work on this Department; a satisfactory scheme is rapidly nearing completion.

My work is not only rendered easier and pleasanter but more efficient through the kindly co-operation of your Officials, and especially for that received from your Sanitary Inspector.

I am very grateful to the Medical Profession for its willingness to afford me its services and advice and for its courtesy in assuring harmonious working between the various branches of Private and Public Medicine.

To one and all I tender my sincerest thanks.

I have the honour to be,

Sir, and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. Baron Cockill,
Medical Officer of Health.

25th May, 1939.

STAFF.

Name.	Qualifications.	Office.	Whole or part time	Other Offices.
W. B. Cockill	M.D., etc., D.P.H.	M.O.H.	Part.	M.O.H. W'land Combined Districts.
A. F. Fildes.	M.I.M.C.E.	Water Engineer.	Part.	Surveyor.
J. H. McAdam	Cert. S.I.B. R.S.I.	Sanitary Inspector.	Part.	Sanitary Engineer.
W. N. Battersby		Water Engineer, Ambleside and Clappersgate.	Part.	Gas Engineer.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1938.

Area (acres)	49,905
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid 1938	5,211
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to Rate Books... ...	1,658
Rateable Value	£52,753
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£203

There are no large industries, as the Urban District is largely a residential and holiday resort. There are certain stone and slate quarries in the District.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	57	33	24	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 11.5
	Illegitimate	3	2	1	
Birth Rate, England & Wales ...					... ... 15.1
Still Births ...		3	1	2	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... 47.6
Deaths ...		66	26	40	

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 12.7

Corrected ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ... 10.4

Death Rate, England & Wales 11.6

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) Births.
Puerperal Sepsis ...	Nil. ...	Nil.
Other Puerperal Causes ...	Nil. ...	Nil.
Total	Nil. ...	Nil.

Maternal Mortality Rate, England & Wales... ... 2.97

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live Births ... ... Nil.

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate Births ... Nil.

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate Births ... Nil.

Infantile Death Rate, England & Wales 53

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 8

,, ,, Measles (all ages) ... ... Nil.

,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages) ... Nil.

,, ,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years) ... ... Nil.

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year, nor has there been any noteworthy cause of sickness or invalidity in the District ; neither occupation nor environment have had any prejudicial effect upon health.

The School Medical Officer does not consider that unemployment has had any significant influence on the health or physique of the children, nor is there any direct evidence that adults have been seriously affected from the same cause.

Deaths were registered from the following Causes :—

DISEASE.	M.	F.	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	1	1
Influenza	1	1	2
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	—	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	2	6	8
Diabetes	—	1	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	3	3	6
Heart Disease	6	18	24
Other Circulatory Diseases	—	1	1
Bronchitis	1	—	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	—	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	1	—	1
Senility	6	4	10
Other Violence	1	—	1
Other Defined Diseases	3	5	8

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Ambulance Facilities.

Infectious Cases.—Kendal Ambulance.

Non-Infectious Cases.—Ambleside Division S.J.A.B.

Except for Patterdale and Glenridding which are provided for by the North Westmorland Authority.

All these arrangements are satisfactory.

Laboratory Facilities.

There was no change during the first ten months of the year but for the latter two months a good deal of the work previously carried out at the Combined Sanitary Districts Laboratory at Kendal was transferred to the Cumberland Pathological Laboratory, Carlisle.

Nursing in the Home.

There is no change in these arrangements.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

No new Clinics or Treatment Centres have been established.

Hospitals.

There has been no change in either the public or voluntary hospital services.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The water supplies have been maintained in a satisfactory condition and there has been no shortage.

The old mains at Grasmere gave some trouble and it has been decided to relay 5,761 yards of the 1872 and 1903 mains.

Samples of water taken after the very heavy rainfalls were not in all respects fit for human consumption, and it has been decided to instal a chlorination plant.

This water is an upland surface water derived from ground used fo grazing both cattle and sheep and though quite beyond any domestic buildings, after heavy rain is liable to show manurial contamination; at other times the results are satisfactory.

The water at Ambleside is derived from a similar gathering ground and was found to be somewhat unsatisfactory at the period referred to above, but with less heavy rain the analysis was satisfactory.

Schemes for water supplies to Little Langdale and to Patterdale and Glenridding are under consideration and will probably materialise at no very distant date.

The rainfall in the year reached the record of 92.16 inches an increase of 35.56 inches on the previous year and higher by more than 10 inches in any previous year. Rain fell on 215 days.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The filtering media in the 3rd bed of the Ambleside Sewage Works has been renewed, and the filter put into action.

Rivers and Streams.

The wet summer of 1938 resulted in an absence of complaints regarding river pollution.

A lead mine discharges quantities of finely ground stone into a stream and methods of preventing this are under consideration.

Closet Accommodation.

There have been 21 water closets installed in place of earth closets or privy middens: 18 of these are connected with private sewage disposal schemes. The total number of earth closets existing is not known, but they are mostly in the unsewered and isolated parts of the area.

Public Cleansing.

A number of houses in various parts have been included in the refuse collection schemes. Refuse from the Clappersgate area is now removed monthly instead of at 2 monthly intervals.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Work has been carried on in the usual manner, and action taken in the following instances :—

Premises in such a state as to be injurious to health	6
Insufficient Water Supply	5
Defective W.C.'s	7
Defective Drainage	7
Insufficient Ashpits	27
Defective Sinks	2
Defective Cesspools	3
Total	57

Shops and Offices.

No action has been taken.

Camping Sites.

No information of total number of sites used for camps of short duration is available.

Licences have been issued by the Authority in ten cases.

The estimated number of campers resident in the Area at one time is about 200.

Smoke Abatement.

No industrial smoke nuisance exists.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

Waterhead Bay, Lake Windermere, is used as a public bathing place during the summer months.

The Holiday Camp, Great Langdale, has an open-air swimming bath, in a stream running through the grounds.

In neither case has any action been considered necessary.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No complaints have been received, nor has any evidence of bed bug infestation been found in the Area.

Schools.

No complaints with regard to water supplies have been received. Some of the schools in Ambleside have rather insanitary trough closets, but as a reconstruction of the schools is shortly to take place, the matter is being held in abeyance.

No schools have been closed on account of Infectious Disease.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the Year :—

(1) By the Local Authority ... ... Nil.

(2) By other bodies or persons 14

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :—

(1) (*a*) Total number of Dwelling houses inspected during the year for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 142

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose 256

(2) (*a*) Number of Dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 8

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose 16

(3) Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 3

(4) Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 65

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 40

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—

(*a*) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 4

(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(*a*) By Owners 2

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ... Nil.

(*b*) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 17

(2) Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(*a*) By Owners 17

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ... Nil.

(*c*) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... ... Nil.

(*d*) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936. ... ... Nil.

4. **Housing Act, 1936—Part IV. Overcrowding.**

(*a*) (1) Number of Dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 11

(2) Number of families dwelling therein ... 12

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 70½

(*b*) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ... Nil.

(*c*) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 2

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases 8

(*d*) Particulars of any cases in which Dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of the same ... ... Nil.

(*e*) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ... Nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

The number of Accredited Producers in the Area is 3. Thirteen milk samples were taken for bacteriological examination, and in no case was tubercle bacillus found. With regard to cleanliness, 5 samples were satisfactory and 8 failed to pass both the Coliform and Methylene Blue Tests.

Meat and Other Foods.

In almost every case when slaughter is notified, the meat is inspected. The shops and vans in the district are kept in a cleanly state. No open markets are held within the Area.

No Meat Marketing Scheme is in force in the Area.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	291	1	67	2536	198
Number inspected (approximately)	66%	100%	66%	10%	66%
Whole Diseases except Tuberculosis All carcases condemned	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	14	1	Nil.	2	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	7.2%	100%	Nil.	78%	2.2%
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcases condemned ...	4	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	13	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	13
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	8.8%	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	10.6%

Adulteration, etc., and Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Foods.

Milk samples for cleanliness and tubercle bacilli are submitted to the Pathologist at Cumberland Pathological Laboratory, Carlisle.

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority, and this work is carried out by Mr. C. J. H. Stock, B.Sc., F.I.C., County Analyst, Darlington.

Health Education.

There is a considerable amount of dissemination of knowledge relating to health and disease through the Women's Institutes and through health talks at the Schools by the School Medical Officers.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There has been a considerable amount of Scarlet Fever in the District, 39 cases in all; in January at Patterdale 7 cases, in June in the Langdale area 14 cases, in the latter part of the year at Ambleside, 18 cases. Of the 7 cases at Patterdale 3 were in one house and 2 in another; at Langdale there was one house with 4 cases, 1 with 3 and 1 with 2; at Ambleside there were 2 houses in which 3 cases occurred and 2 houses with 2 cases.

The disease was very mild and it was only by continued and careful school inspection that one was able to find mild cases that had been overlooked — three cases each at Ambleside and Langdale schools were found to be desquamating and one at Patterdale. There was one death in a child who had cardiac disease.

The only other diseases notified were 2 Pneumonia and 1 Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is issued free for the treatment of all necessitous cases, excepting patients under the National Health Insurance Act, also for both necessitous and insured persons for prophylactic purposes. The Council is very wisely prepared to supply the necessary facilities for artificial immunization against Diphtheria, but so far no advantage has been taken of the same.

Hospital accommodation is available at Kendal Sanatorium and there is no need to shorten the stay of any patient in Hospital. The admission of cases suffering from Measles, Whooping Cough, etc., has not been arranged for, but there is no reason why bad cases of Measles which require skilled nursing should not be admitted at any time.

The County Council has had under consideration for the past few years the whole of the Isolation Hospital question for the County ; various schemes have been put forward, but so far there has been no definite decision.

The following Laboratory Examinations have been carried out :—

Diphtheria	33
Organisms	3
Gonococcus	1
	37

There was an epidemic of Influenza during the early part of the year but fortunately with little fatality.

A close liaison exists with the School Medical Officers and thus school notifications are always available and utilised where necessary.

Disinfection with formalin is carried out after all infectious cases, and bedding, clothing, etc., is disinfected in a steam disinfector at Windermere Isolation Hospital. No special provision is made for disinfestation, but it can always be arranged in co-ordination with the Kendal Isolation Hospital.

Arrangements have been made between the Westmorland County Hospital and the Manchester Radium Institute for the treatment of cases of malignant disease by radium when so required.

No action has been taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1925, with regard to the prevention and treatment of Blindness.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1938.

DISEASE	Total	AGES												Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
		—1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—		
Scarlet Fever	39	—	—	2	4	4	19	8	—	2	—	—	—	33	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
TOTAL ...	42	1	—	2	4	4	19	8	—	2	—	1	1	33	1

TUBERCULOSIS TABLE

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	—

Tuberculosis.

The incidence of Tuberculosis was less, viz., 2 cases of Pulmonary and 1 of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

None of those who were affected were unemployed prior to their illness.

No action has been necessary under Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, nor under Section 62 Public Health Act, 1925.

The administration of Tuberculosis, Venereal Diseases and Maternity and Child Welfare is under the County Council.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

	Inspections.	Notices.
Factories	4 ...	1
Workshops	10 ...	Nil
Workplaces	4 ...	Nil
	18	1

	Defects Found.	Remedied.
Sanitary accommodation insufficient ...	1 ...	Nil

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